The Papers of Arnold Orville Beckman

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California Institute of Technology
1200 East California Blvd., Mail Code 015A-74
Pasadena, California 91125
(626) 395-2704
archives@caltech.edu
http://archives.caltech.edu/
2014
Descriptive Summary
Title: The Papers of Arnold Orville Beckman
Dates: 1919-1989
Collection Number: 10103-MS
Creator/Collector: Torges, Gwen
Extent: 10 linear feet
Repository: California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California 91125
Abstract: The Arnold Beckman materials are primarily printed matter relating to Beckman's philanthropy, including newspaper clippings, photos, albums and scrapbooks. There are also two manuscript boxes of biographical newspaper clippings from the 1950s through 1989. Although there is only a small amount of correspondence (less than one archival box), many of the correspondents are noteworthy figures, including several politicians. The three storage boxes at the end of the collection contain photo albums and scrap books. The collection also contains a large number of photographs, several plaques and honorary certificates, two reel-to-reel audio tapes, two audio cassettes and one Lyndon Johnson pen.
Language of Material: English
Access
The collection is open for research. Researchers must apply in writing for access.
Preferred Citation
The Papers of Arnold Orville Beckman. California Institute of Technology
Acquisition Information
The majority of the collection was donated to the Caltech Archives by Arnold Beckman himself, and came out of his home files. Boxes 9 and 10 are miscellaneous files that came out of his Beckman Foundation office in Irvine, California, and were transferred to the Caltech Archives by Beckman's secretary.
Biography/Administrative History
Arnold Orville Beckman (1900-2004) was an American investor, inventor, chemist, and philanthropist. He was the founder of Beckman Instruments, Inc.; Caltech Assistant Professor from 1929 to 1940 and a Caltech Trustee from 1953 to the end of his life
Scope and Content of Collection
Series 1, Biographical Information, contains newspaper clippings, articles and printed material about Beckman's life. Series 2, Philanthropic Gifts, contains the documentation of the Beckmans' many donations and endowments. Series 3, General Correspondence, includes communications with individuals and it is arranged in alphabetical sequence. Major individual correspondents represented in Series 3 include United States President Richard Nixon, Caltech presidents Lee DuBridge, Harold Brown and Marvin Golderberger and HRH Princess Margaret. Series 4, Miscellaneous Printed Information, contains few printed materials and transcripts. Series 5, Photographs, contains family photos, formal portraits and photos of Beckman and his wife Mabel taken at events and with personalities. Series 6, Miscellaneous Items and Tapes, contains memorabilia, recordings and mementos. Series 7, Miscellaneous Documents, includes, speeches, interviews and research notebooks. Series 8, Awards, Honors, contains awards, certificates and medals. Series 9, Scrapbooks, Photo Albums, includes both family album and album of events attended by Beckman. Series 10, Miscellaneous Oversized items, contains a family photo album, scrapbooks and awards. RELATED MATERIAL: Oral history interview with Arnold O. Beckman, Caltech Archives 1978. (http://resolver.caltech.edu/CaltechOH:OH_Beckman_A)
Indexing Terms
Philanthropy
Nixon, Richard
HRH Princess Margaret
California Institute of Technology
Beckman Instruments Inc.

Container List